

## DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

*Circular No. D. 10015—Geol. 67-38, dated 16—24th May 1939.*

**Rules under the Mysore Explosives and Petroleum Acts.**

*Accidents by explosives.*—Government are constrained to observe that owing to the non-observance of the rules and proper precautions prescribed under the Mysore Explosives Rules fatal and serious accidents continue to occur in the manufacture of gunpowder and fireworks. Government consider that the District authorities can prevent the occurrence of such accidents by insisting on the licensees manufacturing explosives in the specified places and observing the safety distances and the quantity limits prescribed in their licenses *vide* conditions 4, 12 and 13 of License Form A, Mysore Explosives Rules, which are quoted below:—

**License Form A.**

*Condition 4.*—(1) The explosive shall be manufactured in a tent or lightly constructed building exclusively appropriated for the purpose and separated from any dwelling house, highway, street, public thoroughfare or public place by the distance.

- (a) in the case of gunpowder or smallarm nitro-compound, of one hundred yards or
- (b) in the case of an explosive of the 1st Division of the 6th (Ammunition) Class, or of the 7th Firework) Class, of 50 yards.

*Condition 12.*—(1) The explosives possessed by the licensee shall be kept in one or other or both of the following modes:—

Mode A, that is to say, in a building or excavation, which is detached from any dwelling house and is separated by the distances prescribed in condition No. 4 from any highway, street, public thoroughfare or public place, and is made and closed so as to prevent unauthorised persons from having access thereto and to secure it from danger from without, and is exclusively appropriated to keeping explosives; and

- (a) such a building must be substantially constructed of brick, stone or concrete or must be a securely constructed fire proof safe; and
- (b) such an excavation must be formed in solid rock, or earth, or in mine refuse not liable to ignition and must not open into, from or out of any mine, quarry, tunnel or underground place which is in use for the carrying on of any work or for the employment of any person.

Mode B, that is to say, in a substantial receptacle (whether or not a fireproof safe) which is closed and secured so as to prevent unauthorised persons from having access thereto, and is exclusively appropriated to the keeping of explosives, and is placed inside a dwelling house, or inside a building which is not itself qualified for the keeping of explosives in Mode A:

(2) A fireproof safe shall not be used for the keeping of any explosive other than gunpowder or small-arm-nitro-compound and cartridges of the 2nd Division of the 6th (Ammunition) Class (not containing their own means of ignition) and made with gunpowder or small-arm-nitro-compound, such as cartridges or charges for cannon or blasting purposes.

*Condition 13.*—The maximum quantity of explosives allowed to be kept at the same time shall be the following:—

(1) if the only explosive kept be one or more of the following, namely:—

- (a) gunpowder;
- (b) small-arm nitro-compound; or
- (c) ammunition of the 1st Division of the 6th class, the maximum shall be—

|                                                                                                                                            | In Mode A                               | In Mode B                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Gunpowder and small-arm-nitro-compound in all and in addition, of explosives contained in ammunition of the 1st Division of the 6th Class. | lbs.<br>Two hundred<br><br>Any quantity | lbs.<br>Fifty<br><br>Any quantity |
| (2) If the only explosive kept be manufactured fireworks, the maximum shall be<br>Manufactured fireworks                                   | Two hundred                             | Fifty                             |

(3) in any other case the maximum shall be—

|                                                                                                          | In Mode A     | In Mode B       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Mixed explosives, including gunpowder, small-arm-nitro-compound and manufactured fireworks, etc., in all | lbs.<br>Sixty | lbs.<br>Fifteen |
| and in addition, of explosives contained in ammunition of the 1st Division of the 6th Class.             | Any quantity  | Any quantity    |

Provided that in each of the three cases above mentioned the aggregate quantity kept on the premises in Mode A and Mode B together may not in any case exceed the maximum quantity which may be kept in Mode A.

It is evident that little attention is paid to these points and the manufacture, possession and storage of quantities of fireworks grossly in excess of that which may legally be possessed is resorted to by some licensees. Even under temporary permits granted under Rule 59, Mysore Explosives Rules, for the storage of larger quantities of explosives than are allowed by the licensees, the explosives should be stored in accordance with the conditions above quoted.

A large number of accidents by fireworks are attributable to unsafe and unduly sensitive mixtures composing fireworks. While grinding together the ingredients of the firework composition, an explosion occurred and all of them sustained very serious injuries to which they succumbed the next day. In spite of the attention drawn by Government to the highly dangerous character of a mixture, of potassium chlorate and arsenic sulphide, this mixture, the manufacture, possession or importation of which is prohibited by Government—*vide* Government Notification No. D. 2814 Geol. 66-28-25, dated 9th September 1930—is widely used by fireworks manufacturers and the lay public alike. It should be made known to all that the use of potassium, sodium and barium chlorates in the manufacture of fireworks is strictly prohibited. The licensing and the inspecting officers should exercise vigilant supervision and take stringent action against delinquents to prevent loss of life and limb from this cause.

*Filling petrol from Kerbside Pump Outfits into tins and drums.*—The common practice of filling petrol from kerbside pump outfits into tins and drums on the road-side is highly dangerous and constitutes a breach of condition 1 of License Form Q, Mysore Petroleum Rules. Licenses in Form Q issued for the storage of dangerous petroleum in underground tanks for fuelling motor conveyances, place very few restrictions on the location and use of the pumps but this freedom could only be justified if the conditions governing the operation of the pumps as embodied in the licensees are strictly adhered to. The conversion of the public road into a filling shed by permitting the filling of drums and tins and other receptacles at a kerbside pump should be stopped. Under the Rules, filling of petrol cans is permitted only when the can is clamped to a motor vehicle. For the convenience of motorists, holders of pump licenses may keep up to 20 sealed petrol cans in their Bunks by taking out a separate license therefor in Form C of the Mysore Petroleum Rules.

The refuelling of buses containing passengers is strictly prohibited and while petrol is being filled, all the passengers must be made to get out of the bus. To avoid this inconvenience to passengers, the buses should be refuelled either at the beginning or at the end of their run.

All officers entrusted with the administration of the Explosives and Petroleum Rules are requested to take immediate steps to put a stop to the dangerous and unlawful practices referred to above and to get the offenders punished according to law.

No. D. 10125—Agri. 15-38-12, dated 25—26th May 1939.

The following notification by the Government of India, Department of Commerce No. 218 (1)—T. R. (I. E. R.) 39, dated 1st April 1939, regarding the rate of license fee charged for an export license issued by the Indian Tea Licensing Committee, is published for general information :—

By Order,

M. VENKATANARAYANA,  
Secretary to Government,  
Development Department.